

new vistas in Basic Science and Medical Research



The Clinical Center
of the
National
Institutes
of Health
Bethesda, Maryland



see overleaf

I proudly dedicate this center to medical research as a symbol of our national concern for the health of our people, for their right to pursue happiness unhampered by crippling pain and illness.

In freedom, this building and the people who work here are dedicated to the endless struggle against human suffering.

We are dedicating it today—dedicating it to the open mind of research—dedicating it as an example of democracy heeding its obligation to free men, who, together, are self-governing.

—OVETA CULP HOBBY

WITH these words the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare on July 2, 1953, added a major resource to the public health and medical research potential of the United States of America.

Creation of the Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Health—research arm of the Public Health Service in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare—is the latest in a train of developments which began in 1887 with the organization of scientific research endeavor by the then United States Marine-Hospital Service. In succeeding years, the focus of research was on major communicable diseases, and the methods were largely field epidemiology and laboratory study, basic and applied. The new Clinical Center permits an across-the-board approach via field, laboratory, and clinical routes. It facilitates, also, a coordinated effort against today's major and disabling diseases. "We have reached," Surgeon General Scheele said at the Clinical Center dedication, "a period of consolidation of forces for a broad attack on chronic diseases—an attack that can be fully successful only after years of intensive research. This means that we must not only press the search for new knowledge, but we must also use what we do know more intensively, more effectively."

Public Health Reports for September will report more fully on the dedicatory remarks of the Secretary and others and will present additional detail about the research program. For a description of the general philosophy and operating plans of the Clinical Center, see Public Health Reports, August 1952, pp. 819-823.

frontispiece . . .

The southern elevation of the Clinical Center is marked by the patients' solariums, with the silhouette of the auditorium jutting from the first floor.

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